

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [00030] on page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG.6, a symbol X_i node 601 may be a symbol node associated with the data symbols at the input of first constituent code 401 at time “i.” A symbol Y_i node 602 may be a symbol node associated with the data symbols at the output of first constituent code 401 at time “i.” A symbol Z_k node 603 may be a symbol node associated with the data symbols at the output of second constituent code 402 at time “k”. The state nodes of the trellis associated with first constituent code 401 at times “i-1” and “i” may be represented by respectively a state S_{i-1} node 604 and a state S_i node 605. The state nodes of the trellis associated with second constituent code 402 at times “k-1” and “k” may be represented respectively by a state σ_{k-1} node 606 and a state σ_k node 607. The computational nodes associated with the first constituent code 401 at times “i-1,” “i” and “i+1” may be respectively represented by a C_{i-1} node 608, a C_i node 609 and a C_{i+1} node 610. The computational nodes associated with the second constituent code 402 at times “k-1,” “k” and “k+1” may be represented respectively by a D_{k-1} node 611, a D_k node 612 and a $[D_{k+1}]$ $\underline{D_{k+1}}$ node 613. A channel R_x node 614 is associated with the received data symbols X_i . A channel R_y node 615 is associated with the received data symbols Y_i . A channel R_z node 616 is associated with the received data symbols Z_k . It should be noted that in addition to the various branches shown in FIG. 6 and specifically mentioned in the following paragraphs, the graph 600 also includes branches 655, 656, 658, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, and 676. These branches represent information flow between various nodes of the decoder, as shown.